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Introduction

We have written *Planning Your Alaska Hunt* to provide some basic information about an Alaska hunting trip. This pamphlet is not a substitute for the Alaska Hunting Regulations—be sure to carefully read them too. We have included leads on other public and private sources of hunting information to help you plan in detail. Let us know if we can help you with additional information about regulations or game populations. You will find telephone numbers for our regional offices later in this publication.

Alaska's hunting reputation is justly deserved. This vast state offers wilderness hunting opportunities found in few other locations in the world. It is true that there are huge moose here. Vast caribou herds dominate the landscape in some areas. Alaska's mountain ranges are populated with Dall sheep and mountain goats. Sitka black-tailed deer thrive in the coastal forests. Muskoxen—once extirpated from Alaska—range the western and arctic coastal wilderness. Black and brown bear numbers are large in some areas of the state. Wolves are found almost statewide and are abundant in some areas. Game birds are cyclically very numerous in parts of the state and there are awe-inspiring waterfowl hunting opportunities here.

Even so, planning and preparation are the keys to a successful hunt—however you define success. We suggest you obtain local information from private sources and government agencies before making firm plans. Plan carefully to ensure that the game you are pursuing is found in adequate numbers in the area that you intend to hunt—game is not abundant in every location. Bring reliable equipment. Be prepared physically and mentally for tough weather, difficult terrain conditions and isolation that are normal features of many Alaska hunts.

Alaska Hunting Opportunities

The following tables briefly describes Alaska's game and where it is located. It is important to remember that game is not everywhere. Some species, like caribou, are locally abundant, but in other areas are rarely seen. The same is true of moose. They are widely distributed, but scarce in some areas—even where good habitat exists—and abundant elsewhere. This means that hunters should plan trips based on a combination of favorable populations and access.

Alaska Big Game Distribution

Species	Distribution
Black bear	Found throughout forested regions of Alaska. Greatest densities occur in parts of Southeast Alaska, but good populations can be found in many regions of the state.
Brown/ grizzly bear	Brown/grizzly bears are distributed statewide. Brown bears occur along the coast. Grizzly bears are located inland. Highest population densities are on Kodiak Island, Admiralty Island and the Alaska Peninsula.
Caribou	Distributed throughout Alaska except Southeast. Caribou are found in herds ranging from a few hundred to hundreds of thousands of animals. The largest herds in the state today are the Western Arctic (NW Alaska), Porcupine (NE Alaska) and Mulchatna herds (SW Alaska).
Dall sheep	Found in major and some minor mountain ranges except in coastal regions. Highest densities are found in the Southcentral region.
Deer	Sitka black-tailed deer were originally found only in Southeast Alaska. Transplants in the early 1900's added huntable populations in Prince William Sound and the Kodiak Archipelago. Highest densities are found at Kodiak and in northern Southeast Alaska.
Marine mammals	While huntable populations of polar bears, walrus, and other marine mammals exist, federal law restricts hunting to Alaska Natives only.
Moose	Widely distributed in Alaska. Greatest population densities occur in Southcentral Alaska, but good populations are found in the Interior, Western, and Arctic Alaska as well. Limited moose hunting opportunities are found in Southeast Alaska.
Mountain goat	Found in the coastal mountains of Southeast Alaska and Southcentral Alaska. Greatest population densities occur in Southeast Alaska.
Muskox	Alaska's present day muskox populations are found on the wind-swept western and arctic coasts of Alaska from Nunivak Island to the Canadian border.
Wolf	Widely distributed in Alaska.
Wolverine	Wolverine are uncommonly seen and infrequently taken by hunters. They are distributed throughout much of the state.

Alaska Small Game Distribution

Species	Distribution
Waterfowl	Waterfowl follow two basic migration corridors out of Alaska: one up the Tanana and Yukon river valleys, and another from the Bering Sea across the Alaska Peninsula and east and south along the coast.
• Cranes	Sandhill cranes are widely distributed in Alaska, but most hunting occurs along the migration corridors above. Most cranes have left the state by mid-October.
• Ducks	Alaska has many ducks widely distributed through the state. Major species include mallards, pintails, widgeon, and green-winged teal. Most dabbling ducks are gone by mid-October. Sea ducks wintering along the south coast include old squaw, harlequin and scoters. Most sea duck hunting is in November and December.
• Geese	Geese are distributed statewide. Major Interior Alaska species include Canada and white fronted geese. Most are gone by the end of September. Along the Gulf of Alaska coast, brant, Canada geese, and white-fronted geese are most common. These coastal birds usually depart by mid-October.
• Tundra Swans	Hunting is allowed by registration permit in western Alaska in September and October.
Grouse & ptarmigan	Alaska grouse species include blue, ruffed, spruce and sharp-tailed. Blue grouse are found in Southeast Alaska. Ruffed, spruce and sharp-tailed grouse are common in the Interior during population highs. Spruce grouse are the most abundant grouse in Southcentral Alaska, although recently introduced Interior ruffed grouse now inhabit the Matanuska and Susitna valleys and the Kenai Peninsula. Ptarmigan species include rock, whitetail, and willow and are distributed almost statewide. Grouse and ptarmigan populations are cyclic.
Hares	Arctic and snowshoe hares are found in Alaska. Populations tend to be cyclical.

A hunter's calendar for Alaska

Please see the current [Alaska Hunting Regulations](#) for details of specific seasons.

- Jan:** New licenses and big game tags required
- Apr:** Board of Game prepares regulations for the next hunting season
Most spring bear seasons open
- May:** Many spring brown bear seasons close
Drawing and Tier II permit applications accepted May 1-May 31 only
- Jul:** Regulatory year begins
New regulations booklets available
Drawing and Tier II permits awarded
- Aug:** Some Dall sheep, caribou, deer, and moose seasons open
Obtain harvest tickets and/or registration permits for big game before hunting
- Sep:** Most fall seasons open
Turn in harvest reports within 15 days of the close of the season
- Oct:** Turn in harvest reports within 15 days of the close of the season
- Nov:** Some late winter moose hunts open

When and Where to Hunt

Most Alaska hunting seasons begin in August and September and end by October. Seasons in some areas continue into the winter months. Some populations are large enough and local subsistence needs such that hunting is permitted all year in some locations for some species. Bears may be taken in either fall or spring in some locations.

Timing is important for some species, like caribou and waterfowl. Caribou migrate seasonally, and an area that is good in August may be almost devoid of caribou in September. Most waterfowl move quickly out of Alaska in early fall.

Weather, vegetation, and topography varies widely in Alaska. The following table generally describes these geographic features.

Alaska Weather, Vegetation and Landforms by region

Region	August & September weather	April & May weather	Vegetation	Landforms
Southeast (GMUs 1-5)	Temperatures are mild and may be warm. Skies are typically overcast, with some sunny days. Drizzle and rain is normal.	Temperatures are cool to warm. Sunny days are normal, but some rain can be expected.	The region is heavily forested with large trees and dense undergrowth. Alpine areas and muskegs are open.	Nearly the entire region is comprised of mountains and fjords with many islands.
Southcentral (GMUs 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, & 16)	Temperatures are normally mild, but may be cold at night. Weather tends toward rainy, but there will normally be many sunny days. Snow is possible in September and likely in October.	Temperatures are cool. Sunny days are the norm, but rain can be expected at times. Snow is possible, especially in April.	Vegetation varies widely from heavy forests in river valleys to open hillsides with low-growing alpine and sub-alpine shrubs.	Much of the region is hilly or mountainous. There are a number of large river valleys and basins.
Southwest (GMUs 8, 9, 10, 17)	Weather is typically cool, wet and windy. Snow is possible in October storms.	Temperatures gradually warm during the spring. Cool, wet and windy is also the norm at this time of year.	Forest cover is limited in much of this area. Shrubs and low-growing plants replace trees to the north and west.	Small mountain ranges punctuate the landscape, but much of the area is low rolling hills.
Interior (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24 & 25)	Weather is typically cool and occasionally cold. Precipitation is not great, but August and September are among the rainiest months. Snow is possible in September.	Temperatures range from below freezing at night to highs in the 60s late in the season. The sky is typically clear with limited precipitation. Snow is possible, especially at higher elevations.	Forest cover is extensive in river valleys, but gives way with increasing altitude to sub-alpine and alpine vegetation.	With the exception of large river flats with many small lakes, much of the area is dominated by hills, which grow to high peaks in the Alaska Range, the Brooks Range and other lesser ranges.
Western (GMUs 18 & 22)	August can be warm, but tends toward rainy and cool. Cool, rainy conditions are normal in September with storms coming off the Bering Sea.	Break up is earlier in GMU 18, with winter conditions persisting into April in GMU 22. Snow travel conditions are typically poor in GMU 22 in May.	Trees are sparse or absent over much of the area. Low-growing shrubs, grasses and sedges dominate. There are trees in the eastern portion of both units.	Much of GMU 18 is wet lowland, rising to mountains in the north and east. GMU 22 is mostly hilly, rising to low mountains in places.
Arctic (GMUs 23 & 26)	Expect cool weather during the day and cold temperatures at night, especially in September.	Prepare for cold weather and snow. Weather becomes cool in May.	There is very little forest cover in the Arctic. The vegetative cover consists largely of low-growing shrubs, grasses and sedges.	The arctic coastal plain is made up of low hills and many small lakes. The hills rise to the south to the Brooks Range.

Preparing to Hunt

Physical and Mental Preparation

Alaska wilderness hunting demands physical preparation. Although Alaska is more than twice as large as Texas, it has fewer miles of road than Delaware. As a result, most big game hunting in Alaska is more along the lines of an expedition than the type of hunting to which most people are accustomed. For the most part you have to walk from the drop off point to where you hunt and pack out anything you kill. Physical fitness is essential. We suggest you be physically prepared, at a minimum, to carry a 60-pound pack for several miles through rough terrain or hunt with others that can.

Hunting in Alaska demands far more logistical planning than almost anywhere else. Weather plays a major role and must be factored into any plans. You must be self-reliant, capable of remaining in the field longer than expected under difficult circumstances. Services and creature comforts are few. Inadequate planning, poor preparation or underestimating the wilderness can lead to a miserable or even fatal hunt. See page 20 for an Alaska hunting trip-planning worksheet.

You also must have realistic expectations. When hunting in Alaska success is not guaranteed. In fact, given the climate extremes, Alaska's habitat is much less productive than many places with lesser hunting reputations.

Hunting in Alaska is like nowhere else. It can be tremendously rewarding or terribly disappointing. The extent to which you are prepared will have a large bearing on which it will be for you.

Alaska Land Status & Federal Hunting Regulations

Most of Alaska is public land and much of that is open to hunting. However, many good hunting areas are privately owned, and hunters must obtain permission to hunt in these areas. Regional or village native corporations hold most privately owned lands. There are also substantial private holdings along the road system, particularly near large population centers. Specific information is best obtained from landowners. The Division of Wildlife Conservation maintains some limited information on large Native holdings for the convenience of hunters. Our intent is to help land users (like hunters) and landowners communicate more directly with each other. This information can be seen at the Anchorage and Fairbanks regional Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices (addresses on page 17). If you need additional information about public access on native-owned private lands, contact John Trent, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599. **Please note** that if you will be hunting with a guide or using the services of a transporter, they should have a good working knowledge of land ownership in the area where you will be hunting.

Not all public land is open to hunting. Most national parks are closed to hunting, although some of the land in Preserves administered by the National Park Service is open to hunting. Some Alaska National Parks are open to hunting by qualified rural Alaska residents. Nearly all National Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management lands are open to hunting. Details on areas closed to hunting can be obtained from Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (APLICS). (See page 18)

The federal government is increasingly regulating hunting on some federal public lands because of differences between state and federal laws relating to subsistence use of wildlife. Regulations shown in the current Alaska Hunting Regulations are the best authority on state and private lands. On some federal public lands, federal regulations may be more restrictive than state regulations covering the same area. Federal hunting regulations can be obtained from APLICS.

Licenses and tags

All non-resident hunters must have licenses and metal locking tags before hunting in Alaska. There are some exceptions for Alaska residents. Generally, the easiest way to buy licenses in Alaska is over the counter from most sporting goods stores and from some other retailers. However, they can be purchased by mail from the Department of Fish and Game. Write to Licensing Section, ADF&G, PO Box 25525, Juneau, AK 99825 or call (907) 465-2376 for license applications. A license application may be obtained at any time from the ADF&G FAX on Demand server. Call (907) 267-2860 from a FAX machine and follow the voice prompts. The table below explains Alaska's licensing requirements.

	<u>License Required</u>	<u>Big Game Tags</u>	<u>Guide Required</u>	<u>Waterfowl Stamp</u>		<u>Harvest Ticket</u>	<u>Hunter Education Certification Required</u>	
				<u>State</u>	<u>Federal</u>		<u>Basic</u>	<u>Bowhunter</u>
NON-RESIDENTS	YES ¹	YES ³	YES ^{5,6}	YES	YES	YES	NO ⁸	NO ¹⁰
RESIDENTS								
Military	YES	NO ⁴	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO ⁸	NO ¹⁰
Age 16-59	YES	NO ⁴	NO	YES ⁷	YES	YES	NO ⁸	NO ¹⁰
Under 16	NO	NO ⁴	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO ^{8,9}	NO ¹⁰
Age 60 and over	NO ²	NO ⁴	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO ⁸	NO ¹⁰

NOTES

- Non-resident military personnel on active duty in Alaska may hunt without a license and without big game tags on military lands only. Harvest tickets are required. A guide is required for sheep, mountain goat and brown bear.
- Alaska residents age 60 and older need not purchase a license, but must have a free permanent ID card in their possession while hunting.
- Active duty military personnel permanently stationed in Alaska who do not qualify as residents may purchase big game tags at one-half the regular non-resident rate. All other non-residents must purchase metal locking tags for all big game species at the regular rate.
- Resident hunters must purchase metal locking tags in most areas of the state before hunting brown/grizzly bear (see regulations for exceptions) or muskox.
- All non-resident aliens must be accompanied by a guide while hunting big game.
- All non-residents hunting for brown/grizzly bear, Dall sheep or mountain goat must be accompanied by a guide or by a closely related Alaskan resident. See regulations for details on which relatives qualify.
- Alaska residents who qualify for a \$5 license or who are disabled veterans eligible for a free license are not required to have a state waterfowl stamp.
- Hunter education certification is required for hunting in a few locations near Anchorage and Juneau. See regulations for details.
- Hunters on the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge under 16 years of age and not accompanied by an adult must have a hunter education certificate in their possession while hunting.
- In those areas or permit hunts restricted to bow only, and when hunting black bear over bait, bow hunters must have Alaska, IBEP or other state-sanctioned certification. Bowhunters may take game in any area open to hunting with a gun, and do not need certification in these areas.

Hunting with dogs

Big game may not be taken with the aid of a dog. However, dogs may be used to hunt black bears under the terms of a permit in some areas of the state. Contact the regional Division of Wildlife Conservation office in the area you would like to hunt for additional information.

Hunting bears over bait

Black bears may be taken in some areas with the use of bait. This is a tightly regulated hunting method because of public concern about garbage, hunting ethics, and other issues. Additional information on black bear baiting may be found in the current *Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

Hunter Education

Hunter education training is a good investment. While Alaska generally does not require this training (see the regulations for exceptions), certified hunters are involved in fewer accidents, and less frequently get in trouble afield. Our experience has been that even adult hunters benefit from this training, and we recommend it for all hunters. The training is available all across North America from volunteer instructors certified by state or provincial wildlife agencies.

Alaska does not require wearing hunter orange clothing, but investigators consistently have found that it reduces hunting accidents. Hunter orange also helps you keep track of partners in the field.

Drawing, Registration & Subsistence Hunt Permits

Most hunts in Alaska are open to anyone with the proper license and harvest ticket or permit (and locking tag in the case of non-residents). However, where hunter demand is greater than a game population can sustain, hunting is allowed by permit only. Three types of permits are used: **drawing, registration and Tier II**. Applications for drawing and Tier II hunts are accepted **only during May**. Permit hunt information newspapers and application forms are available beginning May 1 from license vendors around Alaska, or by mail from: Permit Hunt Information, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599, or you may call (907) 267-2347, FAX (907) 267-2433 or email wcinfctr@fishgame.state.ak.us with your request.

Drawing permits limit the harvest by restricting the number of hunters. Most drawing permit hunts are open to non-residents as well as residents. Drawing permit hunts are clearly shown in the seasons and bag limits portion of the regulations booklet. Drawing permit winners are selected by a random draw computer lottery in July.

Registration permits are issued to hunters on a first-come, first-served basis. A few registration permit hunts limit the number of hunters, but most allow an unlimited number. If an unlimited number of permits is issued, the season will be closed by emergency order if the harvest goal is met. Most registration permit hunts are open to non-residents as well as residents. Registration permit hunts are also shown in the seasons and bag limits section of the regulations booklet.

Tier II subsistence permits may be issued when there is not enough game to satisfy subsistence needs. **Only Alaska residents are eligible for Tier II permits.** Resident hunters are awarded permits based on their answers to a detailed questionnaire.

Falconry

Alaska game regulations permit taking game with falcons. For more information on this subject, you can obtain a copy of the *Alaska Miscellaneous Game Regulations* from any Division of Wildlife Conservation office, or from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's pages on the State of Alaska's world wide web site, www.state.ak.us/adfg

How to Select a Guide

Hunters who are not Alaska residents must be accompanied by a registered Alaska guide when hunting brown/grizzly bears, Dall sheep or mountain goats. Or, they must hunt with close relatives (within the second-degree of kindred) who are Alaska residents. Look in the Alaska Hunting Regulations for a complete list of who qualifies as second-degree of kindred. Non-resident alien hunters must have a guide for hunting all species of big game.

The chances of killing an animal improve if one hires a guide or travels to remote areas. Individuals who lack precise knowledge of game distribution, access and Alaska geography, yet attempt to put together hunts themselves may face frustration and disappointment. Only a relatively small proportion of the out-of-state hunters who stay on the road system to save money will kill a moose, for example.

On the other end of the scale is the fully guided hunt. It is expensive, but the chances of killing an animal are high. The best guides deliver 80-100 percent for most big game species.

Some hunters may choose to contract with a guide for species other than the mandatory ones. Generally, guided hunters have a better success rate than non-guided hunters. In addition, guides are familiar with their areas and possess equipment that the average hunter might not care to purchase for one-time use.

But a guide's knowledge, experience and equipment do not come cheaply. Although figures vary from guide to guide, expect to spend \$8,000-\$12,000 for a brown/grizzly bear hunt, \$4,000-\$6,000 for a sheep hunt and \$1,500-\$3,000 for a goat hunt. Moose and caribou are often part of a mixed-bag hunt and prices vary considerably.

The best way to find a reliable guide is by references. Check among your hunting partners. Have any of them hunted in Alaska before? Or do they know someone who did? Which guide did they use?

Many guides attend outdoor shows and conventions in the Lower 48 during the winter. They have booths and promotional material. Try to attend one near you. This kind of personal acquaintance will pay dividends later. Ask the guides for references and follow up on them.

Another avenue is the advertising section found in the back of many hunting and outdoor magazines, or in commercial directories. They offer a starting point for identifying guides that specialize in the species or area in which you are interested.

A list of licensed Alaska guides is available for \$5. The list includes guide-outfitters and assistant guide-outfitters and the areas for which they are licensed, transporters and commercial use permit holders. To obtain a copy of the list, send \$5 in US funds drawn on a US bank payable to "State of Alaska" to:

<p>Guide List Dept. of Commerce & Economic Development Division of Occupational Licensing PO Box 110806 Juneau, AK 99811-0806</p>
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Transporters

Because of Alaska's size and limited road system, most non-residents must hire some sort of transporter to get them to their hunting areas. Most commonly, an air taxi operator drops them off.

The drop-off hunt is less expensive than a guided or outfitted hunt because while the air taxi takes care of transportation and may throw in some planning tips, the hunter performs all other functions on his own.

How much does flying in improve your chances of a successful hunt? It is a function of your definition of success. And it varies greatly, depending on the area, the air taxi operator and the big game species.

Non-residents need to have a clear understanding in their own minds about what constitutes a successful hunt. For some, a new experience with different species in unfamiliar terrain is enough. For others, a successful hunt is defined as killing an animal. Generally, flying in will substantially improve your chances of taking an animal. However, even with the expenditure of hundreds of dollars, there is no certainty of success.

If your definition of hunting success is more experience-oriented than harvest-oriented, a fly-in trip greatly improves your chance of "success." The best way to get a true feel for Alaska's vastness and wild character is to fly in.

Because they spend a lot of time in the air providing services to hundreds of hunters, air taxi operators are well acquainted with access points and hunting pressure in many locations. There are two ways to go: you can pick a specific site and ask the pilot to take you there; or you can choose a general area and ask the pilot for a good hunting spot within that area.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the State of Alaska must certify all air taxi operators. That certification attests only to minimum competence. Obviously, some pilots are more capable than others. Long-established operators become well known in their area of operation. You may want to ask the air taxi operator for references.

Air taxi operators maximize income by transporting as many hunters to and from the field as possible. Thus, the hunter may find he is not alone because the pilot has placed other hunters in the same area. Some pilots refuse to take more than one party at a time to a given area. But in most cases, there are competing air taxis. Even if the competition only flies in one group per area, there still may be three or four camps. And there may be some resident hunters with their own aircraft.

If crowding is of concern to you, let the pilot know. He probably has some alternate locations. Air taxis are only as good as their reputations. And those reputations are built on happy clients. One reason an area may be crowded is because game is abundant there. Certainly, there are places where you are unlikely to see another hunter, but game may be scarce. Again, your choice of areas will depend on your definition of success.

Unless prior arrangements are made with air taxi operators, the drop-off hunter is stuck in the same place until pick-up time. The smart hunter makes firm arrangements to have the pilot check on him every few days. But remember, if you decide to move your camp, there will be additional flying costs.

The cost of a fly-in hunt depends on the number of hunters, the amount of equipment and supplies, the type of aircraft and the distance. Some air taxis offer drop off hunts at a flat rate. Others charge by the hour. Under state law, air taxi operators must publish their hourly charter rates. The rates should be posted in their office. If not, air taxi operators are required to tell you if you ask. By knowing the hourly rate, the distance and flying time, you can calculate whether the flat rate is reasonable.

Remember, when calculating costs on an hourly rate, you have to take into account "dead-head" time, the time the pilot spends flying back to base after dropping you off and the time spent flying out to pick you up. So if it takes one hour to fly to your hunting area, your round-trip cost will be four hours (an hour in, the hour for the pilot to return home, an hour for the pilot to get back to you and an hour to get you home).

If you accept a flat rate, ask the pilot if it includes some time scouting the hunt area. Most hunters like to look at the terrain from the air and perhaps spot game before landing. Generally, you may not take big game on the same day you have flown (Commercial airlines are excepted. See the regulations for species and seasonal exceptions). If you charter on an hourly basis, you can scout as long as you can afford it. But flat rates often do not include much scouting time.

Also make sure to find out whether meat hauls are included in a flat rate. You need to know the payload capacity of the particular aircraft you are using. Depending on the aircraft, the number of hunters and the amount of equipment, an extra flight(s) may be necessary to get everything out if you kill a big game animal. Some flat rates include meat hauls. Others do not. Avoid the temptation to overload an aircraft just to get everything out in one trip. Overloaded aircraft are a significant cause of hunting-related crashes. Over-limit payloads are not only dangerous, they are illegal.

Estimating your weight--an example

Your aircraft has a payload capacity of 1,200 pounds. Each fully dressed hunter weighs an average of 200 pounds. There are four hunters: 800 pounds. Therefore, each hunter can carry 100 pounds of gear, including guns, food, clothing, camping equipment, etc. This does not include the meat and antlers you might bring out.

If you have made arrangements with the pilot to check on you every few days, he may be able to fly out your meat early. If the pilot is on his way home from some other trip, you may be able to save some money. Make sure you have a pre-arranged signal so the pilot clearly understands whether you want him to land at your location to move your camp or haul out meat.

But cost is only one consideration when dealing with meat. If you are on an extended hunt, particularly early in the season, spoilage is a serious concern. Most air taxis have access to some sort of meat storage facilities. By having the pilot check on you periodically, you can get your meat out of the field before it spoils.

It is the legal responsibility of the hunter -- not the air taxi operator -- to salvage all edible meat and/or hides and skulls as outlined in the regulations booklet. Non-residents are often accused of wanton waste of game meat. It is a very serious offense in Alaska. If you know prior to the hunt that you do not intend to take any or all of your game meat home with you, make prior arrangements with the pilot. There are plenty of people with empty freezers who will be happy to take the meat off your hands. Hunters for the Hungry-type programs are active in Anchorage and Fairbanks and provide another outlet for extra meat. But even if you have made such arrangements, it is **your** responsibility to salvage the meat from the field.

When planning your hunt, keep the weather in mind. Besides making your hunting miserable, poor weather may disrupt your flying plans. Allow time on both ends of your schedule to allow for weather disruptions--how much time depends on the normal frequency of bad weather for the area at that time of year.

If there is some reason you absolutely, positively have to be somewhere on a certain day immediately following your fly-in hunt, don't go on the hunt! If a delay in your pickup will cause a major inconvenience, schedule your pickup a day or two earlier. Don't push your schedule to the last minute. There are too many variables in flying in remote portions of Alaska.

Don't even think about pressuring your pilot to fly if he thinks the weather is not good enough. Being on time is not worth the risk of dying. Think of it this way: is your boss (or spouse) going to be more inconvenienced by you being a day late or by you being dead?

While the potential pitfalls of a fly-in hunt are many, so are the rewards. For the non-resident hunter who plans carefully, does his homework on where and what he wants to hunt, and makes firm arrangements with an air-taxi operator, the fly-in hunt can indeed fulfill the dream of a lifetime.

There are also a few transporters who will take you into the backcountry on horseback. But their number is only a fraction of what you find in many other renowned big game hunting states in the West. More common are boat operators (mainly in coastal areas) who will provide drop-off transportation. Many of the same safety principles apply to boat trips as aircraft.

A list of licensed transporters is included with the guide list available from the State of Alaska (see the section on guides, above). Similar information is also available in commercial directories.

Rental Equipment

An increasing number of Alaska businesses provide boats, camping, hunting and fishing equipment on a rental basis. You can obtain information about these businesses from telephone yellow pages, from commercial hunting directories, and from some chambers of commerce.

Firearms and ammunition

There are no simple answers when it comes to selecting a firearm and accompanying ammunition. Here are some considerations. First, Alaska big game varies from the relatively small (deer, goats) to the largest game on the continent (brown bears, moose). In general, hunters should select a larger caliber for the largest game. Cover type should also play a role in cartridge selection. Sheep and goats are almost always hunted in the mountains where long distance visibility is the rule. A smaller, flat-shooting cartridge may be best here. Deer in the coastal forests of Southeast Alaska are often shot at less than 20 yards. Moose in the Interior may be shot at intermediate distances. Select your cartridge based on the circumstances.

While the preceding considerations are fairly well understood, few non-resident hunters have had to gear up for bear defense. This may be an issue in the area you hunt. Many experienced Alaska hunters carry at least a .30-06 in areas with bear populations.

In any case, the rifle you bring should be one you are comfortable with. You should be able to reliably place a bullet in a circle the size of the game's heart/lung zone from hunting positions at the distances you expect to be shooting.

Ammunition is not a good place to economize on a big game hunt. Save the inexpensive rounds for practice. Bring or buy cartridges topped with premium bullets that have a reputation for weight retention and accuracy. Some guides insist on commercially manufactured cartridges.

It is obvious but bears repeating: practice, practice, practice. Your Alaska hunt may provide one shot in a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Make sure that your marksmanship is up to the challenge.

Firearms in Alaska and Canada

State firearms laws and regulations as they relate to hunters in Alaska are simple and pragmatic. Carrying hunting rifles and shotguns through Canada is also generally simple.

In Alaska, hunters may generally possess and use firearms with few restrictions. State law prohibits the following firearms:

1. Fully automatic firearms
2. Rifles with a barrel length less than 16 inches
3. Shotguns with a barrel length under 18 inches and
4. Rifles or shotguns under 26 inches in total length.

Rifles, shotguns and handguns are legal for hunting in Alaska. Rimfire cartridges generally may be used only for small game. See the *Alaska Hunting Regulations* for details.

Handguns may not be carried concealed except while a person is actually engaged in lawful hunting, trapping, fishing or other lawful outdoor activity that "necessarily involves the carrying of a weapon for personal protection." This statutory exemption recognizes the necessity for protecting firearms from rain or extreme cold. Firearms carried in vehicles must either be in plain sight or, if concealed, out of reach of vehicle occupants. As a matter of safety, firearms being transported to or from the field must always be unloaded.

Alaska residents may carry concealed handguns statewide, with certain restrictions, if they possess a permit issued by the Alaska State Troopers.

State law prohibits shooting on, from or across a road. As a matter of safety and courtesy, hunters should not discharge firearms except well away from roads.

There are firearms restrictions in certain national park units. For current information about firearms in these areas, contact one of the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers listed on page 18.

When crossing the border into Canada, remember that you are responsible for declaring ALL firearms in your possession. Declared rifles and shotguns generally may be carried through Canada while in transit to Alaska. Handguns may not be carried into Canada. US citizens may find it helpful to register firearms with US Customs before traveling through Canada in order to prove ownership. For additional information on carrying firearms in Canada, write or call:

Revenue Canada Customs, Excise, and Taxation Transportation Division Ottawa, Ontario CANADA K1A 0L5 Tel. (613) 993-0534
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Note: In the future, Canada will be inaugurating a new set of rules and regulations dealing with the importing and movement of firearms. If you should have any questions, Canada Customs asks that you call 1-800-731-4000.

Food

Two simple rules apply to food carried on Alaska hunting trips: 1) bring enough and 2) don't count on eating game meat. Bringing enough means to pack in enough to cover high caloric output in demanding field conditions and in the event that transportation does not arrive on schedule. Hunting in cool weather, hiking in difficult terrain and packing heavy loads require more food than office work. Heavy and unseasonable mid-September snow and cold in 1991 forced many hunters to stay in the field an extra week or more. While that was unusual, aircraft delays of a day or two are unremarkable in Alaska. Finally, fresh

days before.

Staying overnight

Overnight hunting accommodations can vary from a small tent on the side of a mountain to deluxe wilderness lodges with more than the comforts of home. Some Alaska guides maintain first-class hunting lodges in good big game country. Other operators provide fine lodging without a guide. Some provide weather-tight cabins with few luxuries.

The state and federal governments maintain public use cabins, especially in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. These cabins are fairly primitive. They may have plywood “bunks,” a wood or oil stove (be sure to check in advance which is available in your cabin), a table and chairs and a nearby outhouse. Users should bring their own food, cooking equipment, fuel, water, bedding and amenities. The following is a list of agencies that provide cabins. Please note that the information presented here is subject to change.

Alaska State Parks Cabins are located in Nancy Lake State Recreation Area near Wasilla, Kachemak Bay State Park near Homer, Caines Head State Recreation Area near Seward, Chena River State Recreation Area near Fairbanks, Shuyak State Park near Kodiak, and in Southeast Alaska. Discharge of firearms is not permitted near most of these cabins. Bowhunting may be practical where firearms discharge is prohibited. Cabins can be rented from state park offices or the DNR Public Information Center (see box). Reservations can be made in person or by mail up to 180 days in advance and are confirmed when the full amount is paid. Cabin accommodations vary from 4 to 8 persons. Costs range from \$35 to \$50 per night. For information on Alaska State Parks cabins contact:

**Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Public Information Center
3601 C Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503-5929
Tel. (907) 269-8400 FAX (907) 269-8901
E-mail: pic@dnr.state.ak.us**

You can access information about individual Alaska State Parks cabins on the World Wide Web at <http://www.state.ak.us>. Alaska State Parks cabin information is located in the Department of Natural Resources section.

Bureau of Land Management BLM cabins are in remote locations in the White Mountains National Recreation Area north of Fairbanks. Most are best accessed in the winter months. Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance by mail, telephone or in person. The cabins must be reserved and a fee paid prior to occupancy. For information on BLM cabins contact:

**Bureau of Land Management
Land Information Center
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3844
Tel. (907) 474-2250**

US Fish & Wildlife Service There are seven public use cabins on the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. All are accessible only by boat or floatplane. Cabin reservations are by lottery, and three-month blocks are drawn three months in advance. (*e.g.* the drawing for cabin use in January, February and March is held on the first business day of October.) Applications are accepted until the last business day before a drawing date. Cabins cost \$20 per night. All have kerosene heaters. For information on USFWS cabins contact:

**Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
1390 Buskin River Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
Tel. (907) 487-2600**

US Forest Service The USFS maintains almost 200 cabins in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. Most cabins are accessible only by trail, boat or aircraft. Apply as early as possible to use a cabin. Cabins cost \$25/night. Some cabins have a three-day use limit. For information on USFS cabins contact:

Alaska Public Lands Information Center

605 W 4th Ave, Suite 105
Anchorage, AK 99501-2299
Tel. (907) 271-2599

Southeast Alaska Visitor Information Center

50 Main St
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 228-6220

Tongass National Forest (Southeast Alaska)

Centennial Hall
Juneau, AK 99801
Tel. (907) 586-8751

Tenting It Tents and sleeping bags are the hunter's mainstay, of course, but one consideration is important for Alaska: bring good gear. Under worse-than-anticipated conditions, your sleeping bag and tent may be crucial for survival, let alone comfort.

Hunting from Boats Hunting along the coast in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska is often done from boats. Some operators provide comfortable cruisers with beds, showers and complete galley facilities. Transportation to shore hunting areas is by skiff.

Travel to Alaska

There are numerous publications that list details about traveling to and within Alaska. Some commonly available publications include:

The Milepost

Vernon Publications
3000 Northup Way Ste 200
Bellevue, WA 98004-1446
(800) 726-4707

Fodor's Alaska

Fodor's Travel Publications
New York, NY
(800) 533-6478
books@alaskainfo.com

Bell's Alaska Travel Guide

413B 19th Street, #170
Lynden, WA 98264
tbell@okanagan.net

General information about Alaska travel may be obtained from:

Alaska Travel Industry Association

2600 Cordova Street, Suite 201
Anchorage, AK 99503
Tel. (907) 929-2200 or www.alaskatia.org

Water and air travel safety

Because of Alaska's size and lack of transportation infrastructure, you most likely will be traveling in a small aircraft or boat at some point during your hunt. Aircraft and boating accidents are leading causes of hunting-related injuries and fatalities in Alaska.

If you do not already possess the survival skills necessary to survive an emergency for several days in the wilderness, now is the time to start learning them. Don't wait until you need them and have to learn the hard way.

A great deal of aircraft safety is accomplished in selection of your air taxi, as discussed earlier. Fire is a concern in any aircraft accident. Polypropylene and nylon burn or melt easily. Wool does not. Choose your clothing appropriately. Once in the aircraft, remember that what you have on your back and in your pockets may be all the survival gear you have in the aftermath of a crash. All the survival gear in the world doesn't do you any good if it's in the back of a burning or sinking airplane.

Whether in a boat or floatplane, the single greatest safety factor in Alaska waters is wearing a personal flotation device (PFD). Most Alaska waters are so cold that survival is measured in minutes rather than hours. Even the best of swimmers are quickly paralyzed by the cold. Without a PFD to help you survive the initial shock, your chances of survival are even more remote.

Many experienced hunters using small boats carry their survival equipment ashore with them. This way, even if the boat is lost for whatever reason, survival until rescue is more likely.

Drinking the water

That water coming out of the clear, cold mountains may look inviting to a sweating hunter, but our advice is *don't drink it*. Giardiasis, a disease caused by the protozoan *Giardia lamblia* and is common in Alaska. Giardiasis is often called "beaver fever" after a common mammalian carrier of the disease. But don't be fooled: the organism can exist in a body of water totally without beavers!

Some people react strongly to giardiasis. Symptoms may include diarrhea, increased gas, loss of appetite, cramps and bloating. Symptoms may appear a few days to a few weeks after ingesting *Giardia*. Symptoms may recur intermittently over a period of many months. Giardiasis can be successfully treated with proper medical care. If you experience these symptoms within a few weeks of your trip, ask your doctor to test for it.

To protect yourself from this disease, boil your drinking water at least one minute at sea level, and longer at high altitudes. Some portable filters will remove *Giardia* and other disease-causing organisms from water, and are a good investment. Make sure the filter will remove *Giardia* -- not all will. Remember that filters can become ineffective in freezing temperatures or in sediment-filled waters.

Minimum impact hunting

Part of the appeal of Alaska hunting is that most of the state is virtually wilderness. You can help assure the pleasure of future hunters and other users by minimizing your impact. The best hunters leave little or no mark of their passing.

Here is some of what you can do:

1. Burn your trash and pack out what is not consumed.
2. Use dead or downed trees. Dismantle meat poles and other structures when you are finished with them. Pack out nails, ropes and wire.
3. Bury human waste well away from water sources.
4. Completely burn (or best, pack out) used-up shelter materials (*e.g.* visqueen, plastic tarps, *etc.*)
5. Minimize digging. Cover disturbed areas to look as if they are undisturbed.
6. Remove flagging tape after use.
7. Make sure fires are completely out and then scatter burned wood. Scatter rocks used for fire rings.
8. Confine ATV use to established trails as much as possible.

Fire safety

Hunters too often ignite Alaska forest fires. While a fire can be an important part of camp comfort, hunters should know how to contain a warming or cooking fire. A rock fire ring may be useless on tundra where dried vegetation may carry fire under the surface. Build fires only on mineral soil. Stoves are best.

Clothing

Wilderness hunting demands proper clothing. Cotton has little application in most Alaska hunting. Prepare for difficult weather conditions with synthetic fibers or wool. Wind and rain protection is critically important. Be sure your rain gear is up to the task. Some semi-permeable rain gear becomes porous when dirty or stressed, and these conditions are not unusual for wilderness hunting. Mountain hunting requires adequate footwear. You need sturdy boots that will protect your feet and provide good traction under difficult conditions. Warm headgear and gloves are also important.

During the hunt

Bear Safety

Virtually anywhere you hunt in Alaska is bear country, whether you're hunting bears or not. And nearly every year hunters unintentionally get crosswise with bears. Occasionally these encounters result from a hunter surprising a bear or accidentally

getting too near a sow and her cub(s). Given the stealthy nature of most hunting, there's not much you can do to avoid those situations other than to pay attention and be alert to the potential.

Far more bear conflicts arise once you've downed your big game animal. Remember, in most cases you will be packing out your animal a piece at a time. That means multiple trips to and from the kill site and increased risk of encountering a bear.

In most cases, bears at a kill site will go first to the gut pile. You can reduce your risk by moving all your meat several hundred feet from the kill site once you have finished butchering and started packing.

Clearly mark with flagging tape the kill site and where the remainder of your meat was left. The flagging warns other hunters so they don't stumble onto a feeding bear. Liberally flag all possible approaches to the kill site. Approach flagged areas cautiously and be on a sharp lookout for bears. Use flagging tape sparingly elsewhere on your hunt so as not to confuse the issue. Please remove flagging tape on your last trip out.

If a bear is into your meat, let him have it. Trying to scare off a feeding bear is likely to provoke an attack and it is illegal to kill a bear in this situation (see Defense of Life or Property in the regulations).

The other area where hunters have bear problems is in camp. Once you pack your meat back, store it at least 100 yards from camp, preferably in an area you can see from camp. If possible, hang the meat in trees at least 15 feet above the ground. In many parts of Alaska that is not possible so you may have to figure out alternative storage methods.

Finally, keep a clean camp away from high bear use areas (like salmon streams) and remember personal hygiene. Bears make their living with their noses, so the morning bacon grease pitched on the ground next to your tent is asking for trouble. And using for a pillow the bloodstained trousers you wore while butchering your game isn't wise. Cook well away from your sleeping tent, wash the dishes, burn the trash and keep bloodstained clothing in a plastic bag where you've stored your meat. Please pack trash out with you.

Caring for game meat

Effective game meat care in the field is a topic too involved to be addressed at length here. It can, however, be distilled to three rules: 1) keep it clean; 2) keep it cool; 3) keep it dry.

Clean game meat is free of contamination by abdominal fluids. These body fluids are rich in bacteria and will hasten spoilage or a disagreeable taste. It will have minimal hair, leaves, sticks and dirt. It is free of fly larvae.

Cool game meat is stored out of the sun at all times. Air is allowed to freely circulate around it. The microorganisms that spoil meat multiply more rapidly in warm temperatures.

Dry game meat is not allowed to become wet after initial drying. Moisture is another key element for the growth of microorganisms. If meat can be kept dry, their growth will be retarded.

Rare are the circumstances in which you will be able to remove an animal from the field whole. Strong fly-proof game bags are a must for the pieces of the animal you have butchered. Meat will usually keep for a week or more in the field if kept cool and dry. One popular method for transporting meat is to pack some of your gear in "wet-lock" boxes and then pack meat in them when you are ready to leave.

Meat care during warm weather, especially on August hunts, can tax the imagination of even seasoned hunters. Be sure to bring enough ropes and tarps to keep the meat out of the sun. It may be appropriate on some hunts to schedule a mid-hunt check by an air taxi to pick up meat.

You must salvage all of the edible meat for all big game animals except brown/grizzly bear, wolf and wolverine. See the regulations for an exception to this rule for black bears. Failure to salvage edible meat is a serious offense in Alaska. It carries stiff penalties.

Remember that you must bring out all the edible meat before removing antlers or horns from the field. You may give away game meat but must be able to produce signed proof you have done so. If you transfer the meat to someone else to transport for you, be sure that you give him a signed statement to show what you have done. We have included a form that may be used for this purpose in the back of the regulations booklet. It is illegal to buy, sell or barter game meat.

Salvage of Animal Parts

Here is a table describing the parts of big game animals you must salvage from the field.

Big Game Species	Antlers/Horns	Hides	Meat
Bison	RC	NR	AR
Black bear	-	RC	RC
Brown/grizzly bear	-	AR*	NR
Caribou & wild reindeer	RC	NR	AR
Dall sheep	AR	NR	AR
Deer	RC	NR	AR
Elk	-	NR	AR
Moose	RC	NR	AR
Mountain goat	RC	NR	AR
Muskox	RC	NR	AR
Wolf	-	AR	NR
Wolverine	-	AR	NR

NR=Not Required; AR=Always Required;

RC=Required Conditionally, see regulations

*There are a few exceptions that accommodate subsistence hunters

Meat must be salvaged from all birds for which a season and bag limit has been established. Salvage at least the hide of a coyote, fox or lynx.

Live, Carcass and Boned-out Weights of Alaskan Big Game

SPECIES	LIVE WEIGHT OF ADULTS (LB.) ^a	CARCASS WEIGHT (LB.) ^b	BONED-OUT CARCASS (LB.) ^c
Moose	750-1650	375-825	250-600
Caribou	150-500	75-250	55-175
Bison	800-2000	400-1000	275-700
Elk	600-1350	300-625	200-475
Mt. Goat	135-280	65-140	45-100
Dall Sheep	110-230	55-115	40-80
Muskox	300-800	150-400	100-280
Sitka Deer	70-200	35-100	25-70
Black Bear ^d	70-350	35-175	25-125
Brown Bear ^d	375-1250	185-625	65-215

NOTES:

a: Range of fall weights for both sexes 2 years of age or older, except bears (see footnote d).

b: Weight following removal of viscera, head, hide, and lower legs.

c: Weight of carcass meat after all bones except ribs are removed.

d: Weights of animals 4 years of age and older including range between spring and fall. Bears can have up to 25% weight increase from spring to fall.

Common hunting violations

Here are some common violations of Alaska's regulations and statutes regarding hunting:

- Party hunting: filling another person's bag limit or sharing permits and tags
- Failure to know where one is hunting (wrong unit, closed area, controlled use area, *etc.*)
- Failure to punch or validate harvest ticket or permit
- Failure to return completed harvest or permit report
- Shooting from, on or across a highway
- Shooting from a motorized vehicle while it is in motion
- Failure to salvage or possess the edible meat of a big game animal or wild fowl
- Failure to return specimens required for some hunts: teeth, horns, antlers, skull, *etc.*
- Failure to identify game: shooting wrong-size or wrong sex sheep and moose, and caribou.
- Aircraft misuse: same-day airborne hunting, spotting, herding, *etc.*
- Using a harvest ticket in a permit hunt area
- Exceeding the bag limit by herd shooting and by being confused about hunting in single- and multiple bag limit areas

- Failure to leave proof of animal's sex attached to meat or hide as required
- Failure to report defense of life or property kills
- Failure to use export permit to ship raw skins
- Failure to sign duck stamps
- Shooting waterfowl before and after legal shooting hours
- Shooting an unplugged shotgun at waterfowl
- Failure to seal furbearers and bears within the time limit
- Using artificial lights for hunting big game and furbearers
- Failure to use steel shot for waterfowl

After the hunt

Reporting your hunt

Hunter reports are important to Alaska wildlife managers. We urge you to quickly report your harvest on the appropriate form. Most general season hunts are reported on a "harvest report" postcard issued along with the "harvest ticket." Permit hunts are reported on a similar form that ADF&G issues along with the permit. In some hunts, your harvest must be reported within a day or two so game managers can insure harvest quotas are not exceeded. You will be able to mail a postage paid card for most hunts, however. Recognizing the importance of this information, the Alaska Board of Game authorized ADF&G to "blacklist" hunters who fail to return certain harvest reports. Hunters on the blacklist will be unable to receive certain permits for the year following failure to report.

Hunters for the Hungry

At least two Hunters for the Hungry programs exist in Alaska. Hunters who will be transporting meat to Anchorage may contact Alaskan Hunters Fighting Hunger at (907) 272-3663 (jrdoyle@secondharvest.org). In the Fairbanks area, contact Hunters for the Hungry at (907) 457-4273. (foodbank@polarnet.com). Additional information about these programs is available at www.outdoorsdirectory.com/akpages/hunger.htm

Eating Alaska game meat

Game meat is healthy and nutritious. In fact, when it contains little fat, it is typically healthier than domestic meats. Many people prefer well cared for game meat because of its unique flavor and low fat.

Some game meat has attracted a bad reputation for palatability. For example, many hunters shun bear meat. In fact, however, most hunters who eat black and brown/grizzly bear say the meat is usually good or very good, unless the animal has been feeding on fish. Bear meat should always be well cooked to avoid trichinosis, a parasitic disease (also found in domestic hogs) which can infect humans. Another example is waterfowl taken in coastal areas. Even diving ducks can be very tasty if the hunter takes the time to properly clean the body cavity and rinse it with a dilute solution of salt water. Most unpalatable game meat is a direct result of lack of adequate field care.

Meat from animals taken during the rut also has a poor reputation. To avoid unpleasant taste, extraordinary care must be taken when field dressing rutting big game. The males use aromatic substances in the urine to attract females. These substances usually permeate the hide and hair during the rut. They can easily taint meat, and can be transferred by direct contact, or by hands touching the hide then the meat during skinning. Deer have scent glands on their lower legs, and these must be carefully handled to avoid tainting the meat. Many Alaskans consider large bull caribou taken during the rut to be inedible.

Many big game animals have parasites. Hunters rarely notice them except where infection is extreme. Most are not transmissible to humans. However, dogs and cats are susceptible to several of these parasites. Therefore DO NOT feed uncooked meat scraps or internal organs to pets.

Feel free to contact the Division of Wildlife Conservation's disease specialist if you have questions: Randy Zarnke, Alaska Department of Fish and Game/DWC, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701 Tel (907) 459-7257 or FAX (907) 452-6410.

Observations and descriptions are not always sufficient to allow us to determine the cause of a problem. Hunters can greatly increase the accuracy of a diagnosis by providing samples and/or photos.

Shipping or transporting game

When the hunt is over, you may have antlers, horns, meat or other animal parts. There are a variety of restrictions covering how these parts may be transported out of Alaska. The following table summarizes the documents that you may need to obtain before traveling.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR SHIPPING OR TRANSPORTING GAME TAKEN WITH A HUNTING LICENSE OUT OF ALASKA

Species	Sealing Requirements	Travel only in the United States ¹	Travel through Canada or Export to Other Countries ²	Meat/other parts
		Trophies	Trophies	
BLACK BEAR.....	S.....	T.....	T C P D.....	C P D
BROWN/GRIZZLY BEAR.....	S.....	T.....	T C P D.....	C P D
BISON.....	N/A ³	T.....	T D.....	D
CARIBOU.....	N/A ³	T.....	T D.....	D
COYOTE.....	N/A.....	F.....	D F.....	D
DEER.....	N/A.....	T.....	T D.....	D
ELK.....	N/A ³	T.....	T D.....	D
FOX.....	N/A.....	F.....	D F.....	D
LYNX.....	S.....	F.....	C P D F.....	C D
MOUNTAIN GOAT.....	N/A ³	T.....	T D.....	D
MOOSE.....	N/A ³	T.....	T D.....	D
MUSKOXEN.....	N/A ³	T.....	T D.....	D
DALL SHEEP.....	N/A ³	T.....	T D.....	D
WOLF.....	S.....	T.....	T C P D.....	C D
WOLVERINE.....	S.....	T.....	T D.....	D
SMALL GAME ⁴	N/A.....	N/A.....	D.....	D

KEY TO REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR NON-COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS⁵

- S** SEALING: State game regulations require that brown/grizzly bears, black bears taken in GMU's 1-7, 11-17 and 20, lynx, wolf and wolverine be sealed by an ADF&G or F&WP representative before leaving the state. Brown/grizzly bears taken in some game management units must be sealed within the unit.
- T** BIG GAME TROPHY EXPORT TAG: Required for shipment of unmounted antlers or horns or raw capes from big game, or bear hides. Available⁶ at Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) offices, Fish & Wildlife Protection (F&WP) posts, many post offices in Alaska, and some commercial cargo carriers. Free.
- C** CITES PERMIT: Required for shipment of hides, skulls, meat or other parts of bears, wolves, or lynx out of the United States. Hunters traveling through Canada to US destinations only may use a personal effects exemption certificate (see **P** below) in lieu of a CITES permit. Available⁶ at US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. Fee required.
- P** PERSONAL EFFECTS EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE: This may be used in lieu of a CITES permit for transportation through Canada only to US destinations of hides or skulls of bears, wolves or lynx. Available⁶ at ADF&G, F&WP, and USFWS offices. Free.
- D** DECLARATION OF IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE (Form 3-177): Federal regulations may require this form for exporting meat, hides, skulls, trophies or other wildlife parts from the United States. Available⁶ from USFWS law enforcement offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, at the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge in Tok, and at US Customs offices. Free.
- F** RAW FUR EXPORT PERMIT/REPORT: This is required only for raw furs of coyote, arctic fox, red fox, lynx, red squirrel, wolf and wolverine. Wolf and wolverine are classified both as big game and furbearers. Available⁶ at ADF&G offices, F&WP posts, and at many post offices and commercial cargo carriers. Free.

NOTES:

- ¹ Minimal documentation is required to ship or transport trophies and no documentation is required for meat inside the US, including aboard aircraft that travel directly from Alaska to other US destinations. All road vehicles leaving Alaska must travel through Canada.

- ² Other countries may require additional documentation for importation. Contact the customs office in the destination country.
- ³ Sealing is not required for these species. Be sure to return your harvest or permit report by mail after taking an animal, or at the end of the season if you are unsuccessful.
- ⁴ Small game includes cranes, grouse, hares, ptarmigan, snipe, and waterfowl
- ⁵ Commercial shippers may be required to file additional documentation.
- ⁶ Availability is subject to change. Please check document availability by telephone before driving long distances.

Additional Information Resources

Private resources

Alaska Hunter Publications: Publishes Alaska hunting books and bi-monthly journal, *The Alaska Hunter*. Provides consultation on Alaska hunting on a fee basis. Free catalog. PO Box 83550, Fairbanks, AK 99708-3550. Tel (907) 455-8000. E-mail: chrisbatin@alaskahunter.com www.alaskahunter.com

Alaska Outdoors: Publishes *Alaska Outdoors* magazine and books on Alaska outdoor activities. Free catalog. 7617 Highlander, Anchorage, AK 99518. Phone (907) 349-2424. E-mail alaskaod@alaska.net www.alaskaconnect.com

DeLorme Mapping: sells the *Alaska Atlas & Gazetteer*, a large-format book of topographic maps and other information covering the entire state. PO Box 298, Freeport, ME 04032. Phone (800) 227-1656 X7000. www.delorme.com

Fishing and Hunting News-Alaska: Publishes twice-monthly newspaper with information about Alaska hunting and fishing opportunities and results. PO Box 19000, Seattle, WA 98109. Phone (800) 488-2827. www.fhnews.com

Outdoors America Communications: Publishes the 144-page *Outdoors Alaska Directory of Hunting and Fishing* and a worldwide website with Alaska fishing and hunting information. PO Box 609-PAH, Delta Junction, AK 99737-0609. Phone (800) 561-5880. E-mail: pah@outdoorsdirectory.com www.outdoorsdirectory.com

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation Regional Offices

Southeast Alaska (GMU's 1-5)

PO Box 240020

Douglas, AK 99824-0020

Tel. (907) 465-4265 FAX (907) 465-4272

Southcentral Alaska (GMU's 6-11 & 13-17)

333 Raspberry Rd

Anchorage, AK 99518-1599

E-mail: wcinfctr@fishgame.state.ak.us

FAX (907) 267-2433

Telephone numbers:

(907) 267-2347 24 hour hunting information (live information available only during state office hours)

(907) 267-2187 Hunter education

(907) 267-2531 Hunting clinics information (recording only; most clinics held spring and summer)

(907) 267-2885 FAX on Demand catalog (call from FAX machine only)

(907) 267-2180 Wildlife Conservation regional office staff

(907) 566-0130 Rabbit Creek Rifle Range (recording only)

(907) 267-2304 Nelchina caribou herd information (recording only)

(907) 267-2308 Mulchatna caribou herd information (recording only)

(907) 267-2310 Fortymile caribou herd information (recording only)

Interior Alaska region (GMU's 12, 18-21, 24-25)

1300 College Road

Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599

FAX (907) 452-6410

Telephone numbers:

(907) 459-7206/7306 General hunting information

(907) 459-7313 Wildlife conservation staff

(907) 459-7305 Hunter education

(907) 459-7333 Hunting clinics information (recording only; most clinics held spring and summer)

(907) 267-2310 Fortymile caribou herd information (recording only—Anchorage number)
(907) 267-2304 Nelchina caribou herd information (recording only—Anchorage number)

Western and Arctic Alaska region (GMU's 18, 22, 23, 26)

Pouch 1148

Nome, AK 99762

Tel. (907) 443-2271 FAX (907) 443-5893

The Division of Wildlife Conservation has an extensive web site on the Internet. You will find it in the Department of Fish and Game section at www.state.ak.us/adfg

APLICS

The Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (APLICS) in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan and Tok are a joint project of the Alaska Departments of Commerce & Economic Development (Division of Tourism), Fish and Game, and Natural Resources, and the US Departments of Agriculture (Forest Service) and Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, Geological Survey, and National Park Service). The APLICS have a wide variety of information about recreational uses of public lands in Alaska. Their website is at www.nps.gov/aplic/

Anchorage office 605 W 4th Ave Ste 105 Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 271-2737	Fairbanks office 250 Cushman Street Ste 1A Fairbanks, AK 99701 (907) 456-0527
Ketchikan office 50 Main Street Ketchikan, AK 99901 (907) 228-6220	Tok office PO Box 359 Tok, AK 99780 (907) 883-5667

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Hunting is permitted in most areas of the national wildlife refuge system. Hunting regulations are shown in the Alaska hunting regulations. For additional information about hunting on lands administered by the USFWS, contact:

US Fish and Wildlife Service 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503 Tel. (907) 786-3357 FAX (907) 786-3635
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The USFWS has a World Wide Web site at www.fws.gov

US Forest Service

Virtually the entire national forest system in Alaska is open to hunting. For details of hunting seasons, bag limits, and areas on the national forests, consult the Alaska hunting regulations. The USFS website can be found at www.fs.fed.us For other information about hunting in national forests not covered in the hunting regulations, contact one of the following offices:

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region (for general, region-wide information) PO Box 21628, Juneau, AK 99802-1628 Tel. (907) 586-8806 FAX (907) 586-7840
Chugach National Forest (Prince William Sound, eastern Kenai) 3301 C. Street Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503 Tel. (907) 271-2500 FAX (907) 271-3992
Tongass National Forest (Southeast AK) Chatham Area (northern panhandle) 204 Siganaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835 Tel. (907) 747-6671 FAX (907) 747-4331
Stikine Area (central panhandle) PO Box 309, Petersburg, AK 99833 Tel. (907) 772-3841 FAX (907) 772-5895

Ketchikan Area (southern panhandle)
Federal Building, Ketchikan, AK 99901
Tel. (907) 228-6202 FAX (907) 228-6215

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM manages most federal lands not administered by NPS, USFWS, and USFS -- some 87 million acres. Virtually all of this land is open to hunting. There are some federal restrictions to use of motorized vehicles in certain areas. Additional information on hunting uses of BLM-administered lands may be obtained from:

BLM Alaska – External Affairs
222 W 7th #13
Anchorage, AK 99513
Tel. (907) 271-5555 FAX (907) 272-3430

National Park Service

Contact an Alaska Public Lands Information Center for details about hunting on lands administered by the National Park Service.

US Geological Survey (Maps)

US Geological Survey topographic and other maps can be obtained by mail order or over the counter in several Alaska locations. Some Alaska sporting goods or outdoor stores stock high-demand maps. There are retail stores in larger Alaska communities that specialize in maps. The USGS maintains a map distribution office at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage that can provide fast service over the counter or by mail or telephone for people out of state. In Fairbanks, hunters may obtain maps at the Geophysical Institute's map office.

US Geological Survey	Map Office, GeoData Center
Earth Science Info. Cntr	Geophysical Institute-UAF
4230 University Dr Rm 101	903 Koyukuk Dr
Anchorage, AK 99508	Fairbanks, AK 99775
Tel. (907) 786-7011	Tel. (907) 474-6960
FAX (907) 786-7050	

Hunt Planning

We have designed this to help you plan and organize the details of your Alaska hunting trip. Complete this outline and keep it for reference as you develop your trip plans.

GENERAL HUNT INFORMATION

Species to be hunted: _____ Sex: _____ GMU: _____ Regulation book page: _____
 Hunt dates: _____ to _____ Location(s) where I will be hunting: _____

Special considerations for this hunt (restrictions on methods & means, antler size, access, *etc.*) _____

Other species that can be legally taken: _____

FIREARMS & AMMUNITION / BOW & ARROWS

Rifle: _____ Caliber: _____ Bullet weight & type: _____ Ammunition brand: _____
 Bow: _____ Weight of pull: _____ Arrow weight: _____ Tip weight: _____
 How I will prepare for the hunt (sighting in, practice, *etc.*): _____

PRE-HUNT CONDITIONING AND HEALTH CARE

How I will get in shape: _____
 Medical supplies (first aid kit prescriptions, extra glasses, *etc.*): _____

TRAVEL & LOGISTICS IN THE HUNTING AREA

How I will travel within Alaska to the hunting area – who/how: _____
 Departure date: _____ Scheduled pick up date: _____ Area maps (1:63,360 topo): _____
 Emergency communications (cell phone, flare gun, signal mirror, *etc.*): _____
 Any special hazards (mud flats, cliffs, *etc.*) _____
 Backup plan in case I cannot hunt in the specific area originally planned: _____
 Who knows EXACTLY where we will be hunting and when we will return in case of trouble _____

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES CHECKLIST (You may require additional material; use this list as a starting point)

Sleeping Ground Pad Sleeping Bag Tent Traveling Compass Maps (waterproofed) Pack & cover Climbing pole Hunting <u>Alaska Hunting Regulations</u> Hunting license Harvest tickets/permits/tags	Big game tags Binoculars Flagging tape Game call Knife & sharpener Sturdy meat bags Fly poison Plastic bags Rifle & cartridges Bow & arrows Sturdy pack Comfort Books for bad weather Insect repellent	Head net Candle Lip balm Personal hygiene items Field notebook & pencil Fire starting aids Flashlight & extra batteries Hand warmer & fuel Bandanna Small lantern & extra mantles Waterproof matches Lightweight stool Sun screen Toilet paper Towel & washcloth
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An Alaska Hunting Bibliography

BOOKS (*The Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not stock these books. Many can be found in larger libraries. Please contact the publisher or distributor or your favorite bookstore for your personal copy. Out-of-print books can often be obtained from specialty bookstores.*)

Bowhunting Alaska, by Ron Swanson. Alaskan Bowhunters Association Inc. 1997. 64 pp. (907) 235-5602.

Hunt Alaska Now, by Dennis Confer. 1997. Alaska Hunter (907) 455-8000.

The Outdoors Alaska Directory of Hunting and Fishing, David M. Johnson, ed. Outdoors America Communications 144 p. (800) 561-5880. 1997.

The Bears of Manley, by Sarkis Atamian. Publication Consultants. 1995. 448 pp. (907) 349-2424.

Hunting in Alaska: A Comprehensive Guide, by Christopher Batin. Alaska Hunter 1995. 431 pp. (907) 455-8000.

Sheep Hunting in Alaska: The Dall Sheep Hunter's Guide, by Tony Russ. Northern Publications 1994. 160 pp. (907) 376-6474.

Kelley's Hunting/Fishing Directory of Alaska written and published by J.J. Kelley. 1993. 52 pp.

Longbows in the Far North: An Archer's Adventures in Alaska and Siberia, by E. Donnell Thomas. Stackpole Books. 1993. 131 pp. (800) 732-3669

Hunting and Fishing Alaska, by Lynn Castle and Jimmie Rosenbruch. Safari Press. 1991. 128 pp. [Out of print]

Shadows on the Tundra: Alaskan Tales of Predator, Prey and Man, by Tom Walker. Stackpole Books. 1990. 177 pp. (800) 732-3669

Alaska Safari, by Harold Schetzle. Great Northwest Pub. and Dist. Co. 1989. 366 pp.

Big Game Trails In the Far North, by Phillip F. Neuweiler. Great Northwest Pub. and Dist. Co. 1989. 316 pp.

Sourdough and Swahili: A Professional Hunter on Two Continents, by Bud Branham. Amwell Press. 1989. 224 pp.

Becoming a Great Moose Hunter, by Richard Hackenberg. Frank Amato publications. 1988. 111 pp.

Hunting the Alaska Brown Bear: the Story of a Sportsman's Adventure in an Unknown Valley After the Largest Carnivorous Animal in the World, by John Whittemore Eddy. Wolfe Publishing Co. 1988 (1930). 253 pp.

Alaska Wilderness Hunter, by Harold Schetzle. Great Northwest Pub. and Dist. Co. 1987. 213 pp.

Big Game, Big Country, by Chauncey Suits. Great Northwest Pub. and Dist. Co. 1987. 224 pp.

Of Bench and Bears: Alaska's Bear Hunting Judge, by Richard C. Foltz. Great Northwest Pub. and Dist. Co. 1986. 206 pp.

Alaskan-Yukon Trophies Won and Lost, by George Orville Young. Wolfe Publishing Co. 1985 (1928). 273 pp.

A Thousand Campfires, by Jay Massey. Bear Paw Publications. 1985. 127 pp.

Track of the Kodiak, by Marvin H. Clark. Great Northwest Pub. and Dist. Co. 1984. 224 pp.

Trophy Rams of the Brooks Range, Plus Secrets of A Sheep and Mountain Goat Guide, by Duncan Gilchrist. Pictorial Histories Publishing Co. 1984. 176 pp.

Bowhunting Alaska's Wild Rivers by Jay Massey. Bear Paw Publications. 1983.

The Wilderness of Denali: Explorations of a Hunter-Naturalist in Northern Alaska, by Charles Sheldon. Amwell Press. 1983 (1930). 412 pp.

The Wilderness of the North Pacific Coast Islands: A Hunter's Experiences While Searching for Wapiti, Bears, and Caribou on the Larger Coast Islands of British Columbia and Alaska, by Charles Sheldon. Amwell Press. 1983 (1912). 246 pp.

My Lost Wilderness: Adventures of An Alaskan Hunter and Guide, by Ralph W. Young. Winchester Press. 1983. 191 pp.

Grizzlies Don't Come Easy: My Life as an Alaskan Bear Hunter, by Ralph W. Young. Winchester Press. 1981. 168 pp.

Pinnell and Talifson, Last of the Great Brown Bear Men, by Marvin H. Clark. Great Northwest Pub. and Dist. Co. 1980. 224 pp.

Alaska Hunting Guide, by *Alaska Magazine* editors. Alaska Northwest Publishing Co. 1979. 136 pp.

PERIODICALS

Alaska Hunter. Batin Communications Network. Fairbanks, AK. Published bi-monthly. (907) 455-8000

Alaska Hunting & Fishing News. Outdoor Empire Publishing Co. Seattle, WA. Published twice monthly. (800) 488-2827

Alaska Magazine. Alaska Publishing Properties. Anchorage, AK. Published monthly. (800) 288-5892

Alaska Outdoors. Alaska Outdoors Development Corporation. Palmer, AK. Published monthly. (907) 349-2424.

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